

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (currently amended) An information retrieval method, comprising the steps of:

forming a general user model based on statistical data obtained by audience research on the actions of users; said general user model having general user selection taste data; said statistical data including viewing times for the users;

inputting a user profile for a specific user;

forming an initial user model for said specific user based on said general user selection data and said user profile;

forming a study user model on the basis of said initial user model and an information selection history for said specific user;

retrieving the information suiting said specific user based on said study user model by calculating a genre taste value based on time data of a request for an electronic program guide (EPG); and
rearranging and displaying the EPG based on a genre priority table formed using the retrieved information and the calculated genre taste value;

wherein said general user selection taste data is dispersed data, including time related data, that is interpolated into continuous data by an interpolation method specified by an interpolation control identification key.


Claims 2-3. (canceled)

Claim 4. (currently amended) The information retrieval method according to claim 31, wherein:

said interpolation method is a method of interpolating in accordance with said user attribute and/or said state of information utilization.

Claims 5-6. (canceled)

Claim 7. (currently amended) An information retrieval apparatus, comprising:

 general user model forming means for forming a general user model based on statistical data obtained by audience research on the actions of users; said general user model having general user selection taste data; said statistical data including viewing times for the users;

input means for inputting a user profile for a specific user;

initial user model forming means for forming an initial user model for said specific user based on said general user selection data and said user profile;

study user model forming means for forming a study user model on the basis of said initial user model and an information selection history for said specific user;

retrieving means for retrieving the information suiting said specific user based on said study user model by calculating a genre taste value based on time data of a request for an electronic program guide (EPG); and

rearranging and displaying the EPG based on a genre priority table formed using the retrieved information and the calculated genre taste value;

wherein said general user selection taste data is dispersed data, including time related data, that is interpolated into continuous data by an interpolation method specified by an identification key.

Claim 8. (canceled)

Claim 9. (original) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7,

wherein:

said storing means stores said general user selection taste data that continuous data is converted into dispersed data; and

said initial user model forming means interpolates said dispersed data by a predetermined interpolation method to calculate said continuous data.

Claim 10. (currently amended) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

said storing means stores the identification key for specifying said interpolation method, together with said dispersed data.

Claims 11-13. (canceled)

Claim 14. (original) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7, comprising:

Ed rewriting means for rewriting the general user selection taste data of said storing means
onto another storing means for rewriting; wherein,

said information retrieval apparatus rewrites the data of said storing means.
